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**From:** Bassler, Rachel [Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/6/2019 7:58:50 PM  
**To:** Benning, Brad [benning.bradley@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: SH Bell Desk Statement

Is there any reason we need to include this sentence in the desk statement or should we remove it?

Rachel Bassler  
Press Officer  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
bassler.rachel@epa.gov  
p: 312-886-7159  
c: 312-914-3393

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**From:** Benning, Brad  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2019 11:54 AM  
**To:** Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: SH Bell Desk Statement

There response was dated 1/14/19, and was received by the agency on 1/30/19. There response was mostly answering the 104e request for information. I did not see anything about liability for the release into the neighborhood. Nicole Cantello was the attorney for EPA, I don't know if she had any additional contact with Bell concerning liability and their intent on any cleanup. Nicole is transferring the site to a new attorney since she is going on a detail, possibly Nola Hicks but not sure.

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**From:** Bassler, Rachel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2019 11:26 AM  
**To:** Benning, Brad <[benning.bradley@epa.gov](mailto:benning.bradley@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ribordy, Michael <[ribordy.mike@epa.gov](mailto:ribordy.mike@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** SH Bell Desk Statement

Hi Brad,

We're getting ready to send the SH Bell fact sheet to residents and a desk statement to interested media. Below is the proposed statement, could you help with the highlighted question?

**Desk Statement SH Bell**

This spring 2019, U.S. EPA is planning to clean up residential yards containing excessive manganese near the S.H. Bell facility on Chicago's southeast side. U.S. EPA collected soil samples from more than 100 properties near the facility. Sample results showed surface soil (the top 6 inches) in several yards contained manganese and lead above U.S. EPA's action level. The federal agency uses a "removal management level," or RML, to evaluate the pollution. U.S. EPA set a RML of 5,500 mg/kg for manganese and 400 mg/kg for lead.

U.S. EPA continues to evaluate the lead sampling data and has not yet determined who is responsible or what cleanup activities may need to occur for the lead contamination. U.S. EPA will continue to work with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to review all the 2018 soil sampling data and evaluate possible cleanup levels and cleanup actions as necessary.

**Additional Information**

U.S. EPA sent a letter to SH Bell as a general notice of potential liability and request for information. The company has 14 days after receipt to respond. *(Attached) – did the company ever respond?*

U.S. EPA mailed fact sheets to residents in the area surrounding the facility to update them on U.S. EPA's progress at the site and provide information for families to protect themselves from metals detected in the soil.

For more information about this site, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/il/sh-bell-chicago-facility>.

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